

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**PATENT****YOR920000854US1 IBM-20****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Gareth Hougham
Serial Number : 09/809,440
Filing Date : March 15, 2001
Examiner : Monica A. Fontaine.
Group Art Unit : 1732
For : POST CURE HARDENING OF
SILOXANE STAMPS FOR
MICROCONTACT PRINTING

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TO: The Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

37 C.F.R. 1.131, DECLARATION TO OVERCOME CITED PATENT AND PUBLICATION

I, Gareth Hougham, declare and state as follows:

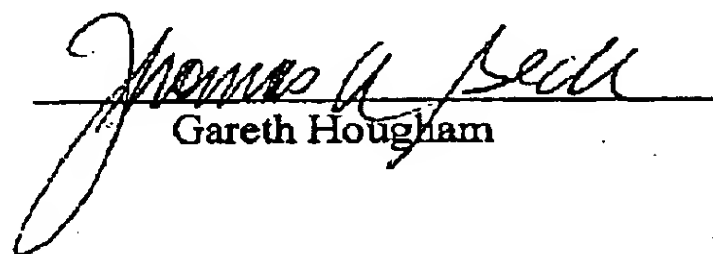
1. I am employed as a scientist at the International Business Machines Corporation, Thomas J. Watson Research Center, located in Yorktown Heights, New York;
2. I am the sole inventor in the above-identified patent application bearing Application Serial Number 09/809,440 which was filed March 15, 2001;
3. During the course of the prosecution of the above-identified application, there were two references cited as prior art which allegedly together with another reference, render the claims unpatentable based upon a rejection of the claims pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a);
4. The first reference is entitled "*The Rubber Formulary*" by Ciullo and Hewett which bears a copyright date of 1999, referring only to the year and no specific month and/or date;
5. The second reference is United States Patent 6,422,528 to Domeier, et al. which bears a filing date of January 17, 2001;

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6. I completed the invention embodied in the claims presently pending in the instant application, before the publication date of the printed publication to Ciullo and Hewitt in 1999, and before the filing date of United States Patent 6,422,528 to Domeier, et al.
7. I prepared an invention disclosure form on March 2, 1999 which contained a written disclosure of the invention as embodied in the claims.
8. In order to corroborate my assertions set forth herein, I attach as Exhibit 1, a copy of the above-noted write-up, which establishes that I had conceived and reduced to practice the invention as claimed.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of any patent that may issue on the above-identified application.

September 17, 2004


Gareth Hougham